

HONORING WILL G. BASS, JR.

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Mr. Will G. Bass, Jr. of Oakland, CA. We lost this exceptional community leader and dedicated leader and dedicated man of God on July 19, 2008.

Will G. Bass, Jr. was born on May 25, 1939 in Gilbert, LA. His parents were the late Will and Ivory Cameron Bass, and he was baptized under the leadership of Reverend R.N. Teats in the Cuba Baptist Church at a very early age. He remained an active member of this congregation until moving to California as an adult.

Education and personal growth were important values to Mr. Bass, which he fostered throughout his life and promoted among the many young people that looked up to him. As a young man in Louisiana, Will attended and graduated from Franklin Parish Training School. He later graduated with a degree in Business from Grambling University before moving to California where he met and married Ms. Betty J. Dobson on August 6, 1960. Theirs was a loving union which spanned almost five decades and produced two children, DiLeen and Nelda. A family man, Will honored and cherished these three women, and it was very clear to his friends and community that his favorite pastime was spending time with his family, which continued to grow in size and compassion throughout the years.

A dedicated advocate for the prosperous development of his adopted community in California, Will was widely known as an astute businessman. He was the Founder and President of the Integrated Technology Group (ITG), which provides services as an information technology and business assistance firm, as well as a land consultant. As a result of Will's ingenuity, creativity, and personal drive, ITG was involved in some of the major and historic development projects in the Greater Bay Area. This included the 1 billion dollar Hunters Point Shipyard Development Project and the 1.3 billion dollar Oakland Airport Expansion Project.

Will Bass was a man of many talents and accomplishments, reflective of the great diversity and innovation present in the East Bay, where the 9th Congressional District lies. Among one of Will's many great personal attributes was his astute ability to think globally, while acting locally. He was able to foresee major international trends in a way that pushed opportunities for Oakland to the forefront and developed new frontiers for my constituency. An example of this was his pioneering accomplishment as the first African American businessman in the Bay Area to be substantially involved in trade with Russia, China, and South Africa. When my esteemed colleague in the Senate, the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN, was Mayor of San Francisco, Mr. Bass accompanied her to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, west Africa to establish the San Francisco-Abidjan Sister City Committee. This was the first time an African city had been engaged in a sister city endeavor with San Francisco.

Will Bass was a Founding Member and Past President of the 100 Black Men of the Bay

Area, Inc. He served on the Board of Trustees of Allen Temple Baptist Church, and was a Founding Member, Treasurer and Board Member of the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce. Will was also a Founding Member of the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce, and he served on the boards of the American Institute of Ethics, the Westside Health Center, and a host of other organizations.

The contributions Will made to his community throughout his life are endless. He was a true inspiration, and an exceptional role model, especially for young men and women of color striving to build up their communities. Thanks to his inspiration, they now contribute to their neighborhoods and work to improve their opportunities so that they may pursue productive and full lives. His legacy will surely live on through the lasting impact he made on so many lives.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mr. Will G. Bass, Jr. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, especially his wife, Mrs. Betty Bass, his daughters, DiLeen Dean and Nelda Jacobs, his sisters, Bernice Bass and Estelle Bass Harnage, his brother, Lannie Bass, his aunts, Pearl Shaw, Neicie Scott, and Roberta Cameron. He is also survived by his grandchildren Quianna, Annaque, Kameron, Niah and Savana Dean, and Trenton Jacobs, and his nieces and nephews, Ivory Bass, Yyanisha Gregory, Jamie Harnage, Marcus Bass, Chonsae Bass, and Jason Harnage. May his soul rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARY OF SORROWS CHURCH

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Saint Mary of Sorrows Church, in Fairfax, VA.

Saint Mary of Sorrows Church was the first Catholic Church in Fairfax County. The original church was erected by Irish immigrants in 1858 and is still in use today.

Throughout its history, St Mary's has been a sanctuary not only for its parishioners but for any person in need of help. During the Civil War, the church and its grounds were used as a field hospital for soldiers wounded from the Second Battle of Manassas and the engagement near Chantilly. Clara Barton, who later founded the Red Cross, was among those who provided medical care. The church also sacrificed some of the wooden pews for firewood while treating those wounded from battle.

Because of St. Mary's distinguished history and devotion to helping those in need, it is registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark and has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1961, the American Red Cross, in conjunction with the Virginia State Historical Commission, placed a plaque on the church memorializing Clara Barton's work at St. Mary's.

During the past 150 years, Saint Mary of Sorrows Church has grown to over 3,000 fam-

ilies and added a second, larger church building. St. Mary's continues to serve its fellow citizens through many social ministry programs including support for members of the armed forces, the homeless, the disabled and the impoverished.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Saint Mary of Sorrows Church on its 150th anniversary. It has been a role model for community service throughout its history. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding St. Mary's for its past accomplishments and in wishing them the best of luck in the many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN THOMPSON  
RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ken Thompson, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Ken Thompson was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for his dedication to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mr. Thompson arrived at Sacred Heart Schools in January 1989 as a long-term substitute physical education instructor at St. Joseph's. An Honors graduate in mathematics from UC Berkeley, as well as a former Cal basketball star, he was hired the following year to serve as the Sacred Heart Prep Athletic Director and to coach basketball and teach math. Three years later, he moved full-time into the academic world as SHP Math Chair, where he markedly strengthened the department and demonstrated the leadership that would lead him to be named Dean of Faculty in 2002. Two years later, he became Academic Dean, a position he has filled with extraordinary intelligence, conscientiousness, and diplomacy. The classic Renaissance Man, Ken is also an actor and a singer. He currently directs and writes musical arrangements for two a cappella groups on campus, one for faculty men and one for both faculty and students. Since the winter of 2005, he has waged a valiant war against leukemia, providing a model of courage and fortitude to the entire Sacred Heart community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Ken Thompson as he is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through his many